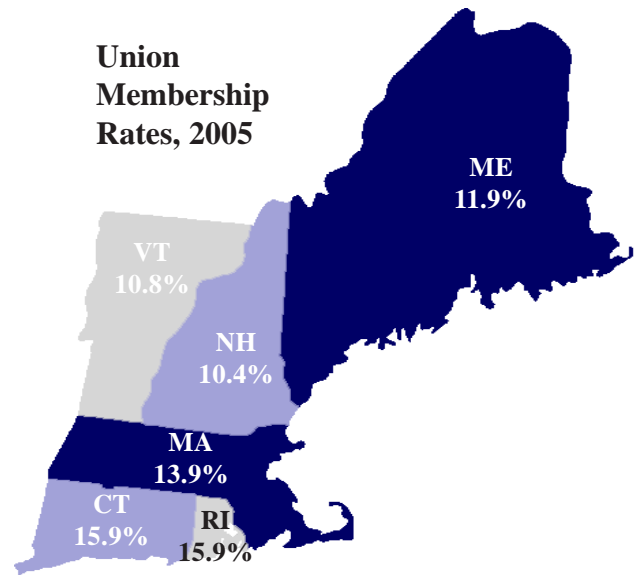


Union Membership in Rhode Island, 2005

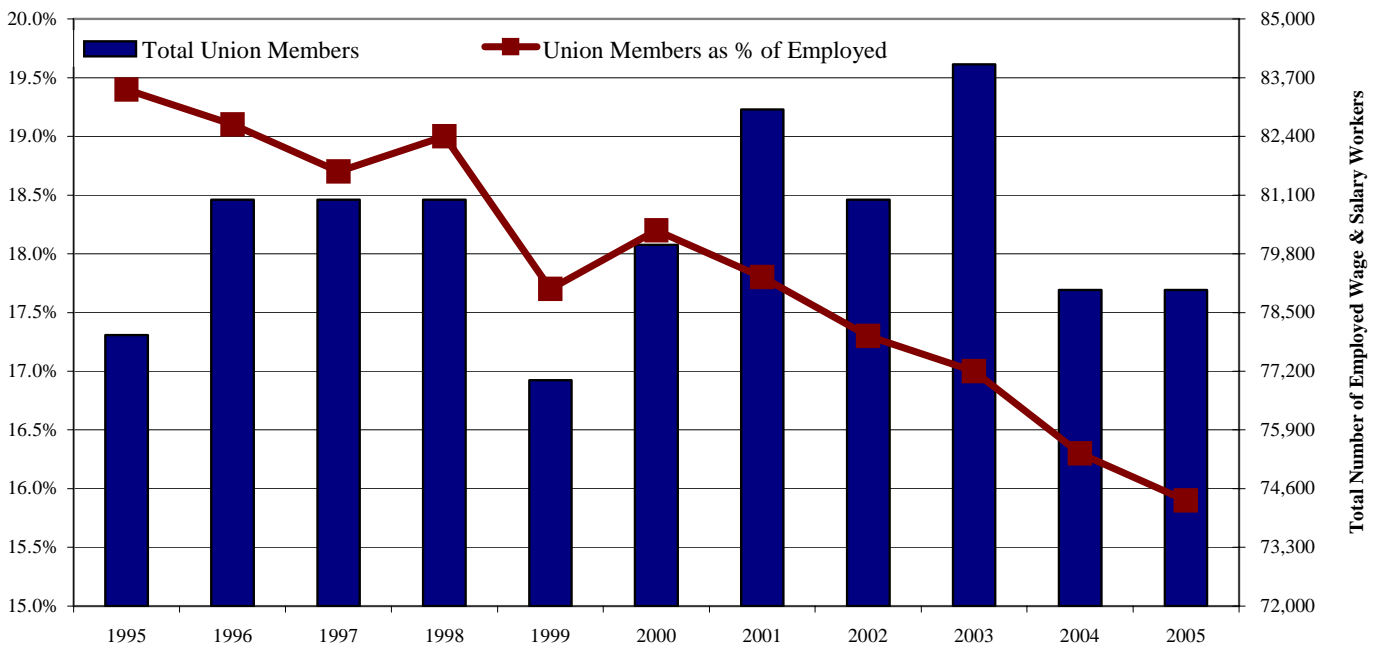
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 15.9 percent (79,000) of private and public sector workers throughout the state were union members. Rhode Island and Connecticut had the highest union membership rates (15.9%) in New England, but slipped to the eleventh highest in the nation, trailing New York (26.1%), Hawaii (25.8%), Alaska (22.8%), New Jersey (20.5%), Michigan (20.5%), Washington (19.1%), Illinois (16.9%), California (16.5%), Wisconsin (16.1%), and Ohio (16.0%). Nationwide, the union membership rate was 12.5 percent, unchanged from 2004 and well below the 20.1 percent measured in 1983.* In 2004, Rhode Island reported the tenth highest union membership rate in the United States at 16.3 percent (79,000).

Over the year, the percentage of wage and salary workers represented by unions in the Ocean State declined, falling from 17.0 percent in 2004 to 16.8 percent in 2005. Throughout the country, 13.7 percent of public and private sector workers were represented by unions in 2005.

Within New England, only Rhode Island reported an over-the-year decrease in union membership, dropping 0.4 percentage points. Vermont's 1.0 percentage point increase was the largest in New England, followed by Maine (+0.6), Connecticut (+0.6), New Hampshire (+0.5), and Massachusetts (+0.4).



Union Membership in Rhode Island, 1995-2005



* 1983 is the first year for which comparable union data are available.

Data included within this report is derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Union membership data refers to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union. Union representation data includes union members as well as workers who report no union affiliation, but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract. For more information on CPS data, please visit www.bls.gov/cps/.